

Message

From: Mooney, Susan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=696C38B8CA96451B8106D113B9EBEA69-SMOONEY]
Sent: 3/19/2020 1:56:31 PM
To: McClure, Amy [AMcclure@idem.IN.gov]; Vescovi, Susan [vescovi.susan@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Public Meeting Question

Hi Amy,

I reached out to Richard Huggins at ORCR on this. I was wondering if we could touch base on this question during our call immediately following the Q2 follow-up call. This is obviously an issue that affect many media programs and is being considered across the board. Richard said he was available to stay on the line with us for our IN-focused discussion.

Susan Mooney
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312-886-3585

From: mturman@nisource.com <mturman@nisource.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Mooney, Susan <mooney.susan@epa.gov>
Cc: amcclure@idem.in.gov; Ahopkins@idem.IN.gov
Subject: Public Meeting Question

Good Afternoon Susan,

I am contacting you to learn your thoughts on a public meeting being planned regarding the closure of five ash ponds located at NIPSCO's Michigan City, IN electric generating station. We would like to conduct one public meeting to discuss both the closure of the ash ponds and the results of the corrective measures assessment performed in conformance with 40 CFR 257.96. Based on current COVID-19 health concerns, a traditional public meeting is not a viable option. We don't expect this limitation will change in the near term. We would like to hold a virtual public meeting. The meeting would be conducted similar to a webinar, with a power point presentation at the opening of the meeting followed by a question and answer period for participants. Notice of the meeting would be distributed in a news release, published in a local newspaper and posted on public media.

Our goal is to begin closure of the ponds in July 2020. Accounting for 30 days of public comment following the public meeting and time for the Indiana Department Environmental Management to consider comments and draft the permit, it is critical that we move forward soon. Another factor to consider is 257.96(e) which states, "The owner or operator must discuss the results of the corrective measures assessment at least 30 days prior to the selection of remedy, in a public meeting with interested and affected parties." We consider the closure of the ponds via closure by removal to be the first stage in what we expect to be a multi-stage corrective measure.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, we conducted a number of one-on-one meetings with interested parties (e.g. the Michigan City Mayor, Porter County Emergency Services, Northwest Indiana Forum, National Park Superintendent, Sierra Club, Hoosier Environmental Council, Save the Dunes, Earth Charter Indiana, the Office of Utility Consumer Council) but with the current health concerns, we must consider alternatives to traditional meetings to move forward.

I would also like to mention that we have plans to close ash ponds at NIPSCO electric generating stations in Chesterton, Gary and Wheatfield Indiana, via closure by removal. The ash from the pond closures will be placed in a NIPSCO landfill located in Wheatfield, IN. We are limited by the number of trucks that can move in and out of the landfill during a construction season, delay of closure for the Michigan City ash ponds would impact the schedule for all of the other ponds that must close in the time frames established by the CCR Rule.

Are you available for a call to discuss? We would appreciate your thoughts on how to best move forward in these challenging times and still meet the requirements of the CCR Rule.

Sincerely,

Maureen Turman
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